

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE
MARICOPA COUNTY ATTORNEY

RICHARD M. ROMLEY



October 20, 1999

August 16, 1999, Juan A. Mora was pulled over driving a car in the area of 13th Avenue and Hatcher in Phoenix. In the trunk of his 1972 4-door sedan were 6 head of calves. A representative of the Arizona Department of Agriculture cited Mora with 3-misdemeanor charges. Transportation of livestock without a valid certificate of inspection, possession of 6 head of cattle without a bill of sale, and intentional reckless and cruel mistreatment to animals.

On September 28th, at a pretrial conference in the Northwest Phoenix Justice court, Mr. Mora pled straight up to the intentional reckless and cruel mistreatment to animals with no agreements. The Class 1 misdemeanor is punishable by up to 6-months in jail and a \$2,500 fine plus a 70% surcharge.

Sentencing is set for Tuesday October 26, 1999 at 2:00 P.M. in front of the Honorable Justice of the Peace John Barclay.

Attached please find a copy of the Arizona Department of Agriculture citation charging Mr. Mora with the misdemeanor offense. Also, there is a copy of the plea agreement. Many of you have asked why this isn't a felony under the laws passed in the last legislative session. The citation submitted by the Department of Agriculture cites the charge as a misdemeanor and uses the language to describe the act as a misdemeanor.

The County Attorney has received several hundred letters asking for maximum punishment for the defendant. Those letters will be given to the court to consider when sentencing comes up next Tuesday.

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